



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

FIRST CLASS MINE FOREMAN

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **First Class Mine Foreman*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform all duties required by State and Federal laws and codes as certified mine foreman/examiner
- Record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

NOTE:

- This certification may be used to perform pre/shift – on/shift examinations at shaft/slope locations.
- **This certification meets requirement for General Miner.**

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- 23 years of age
- Five years mining experience, three of which shall be underground
- Three years credit will be granted for mining engineering degree from an approved four year college or two years credit for a degree in mining technology
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 85% on each element of the examination

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
▪ Dust (DU)	20
▪ Electrical (EL)	20
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	20
▪ Fires and Explosions (FX)	20
▪ Haulage (HA)	20
▪ Mine Gases (MG)	20
▪ Mining Laws (ML)	50
▪ Ventilation (VE)	20
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20

-continued on back-

- Records
Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)
Weekly Examination (WE)
Practical Exercises (PS)
 - Ventilation
 - Roof Control
 - Emergency Response
- Map - ventilated per instructions (MA)
- Gas Detection - practical demonstration

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR Parts 48, 70, 75
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- Practical Map and Records
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide
- First Aid For Miners Study Guide
- Mine Gases Packet

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

***4 hours of biannual continuing education required to update this certification.**

Revised 03/01/05